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POLAR BEARS

Photo images courtesy of Alan D. Wilson

Big and **white**, **fluffy** and **furry**, these are adjectives that describe a polar bear! Can you think of other adjectives that would describe this animal?

Polar bears love fish! How many fish can you catch on this page?

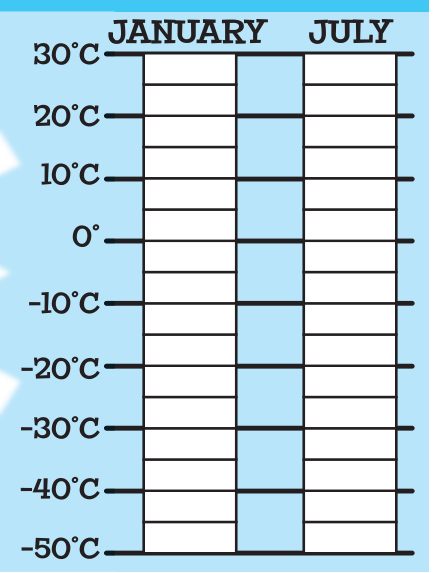
Each hair shaft is transparent with a hollow core that scatters and reflects visible light, much like what happens with ice and snow, giving it a bright white appearance.

Average Temperatures in the Arctic

In January, the average temperature in the Arctic ranges from a chilly 0°C to -34°C (32°F to -40°F).

In July, the average temperature range is from –10°C to 10 °C (14°F to 50 °F).

Color the graph to show the temperature range in each month using Celsius.



How Polar Bears Stay Warm

Polar bears live on ice near the North Pole in the Arctic, which is covered in ice and surrounded by very cold water. But that doesn't bother a polar bear.

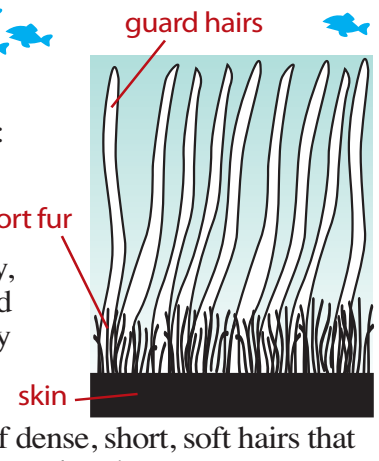
In each box, write the letter that comes before the letter at the bottom of each box to find a couple of cool ways these fluffy fellows stay warm.

_	A	_	A	_	D	
G	B	U	B	O	E	
_	_	_				
G	V	S				

Very Special Fur

Polar bears have two types of fur: long oily guard hairs and short insulating hairs.

The long, oily guard hairs are tiny, hollow tubes that trap warmth and hold it close to the skin. Their oily surface keeps polar bears dry.



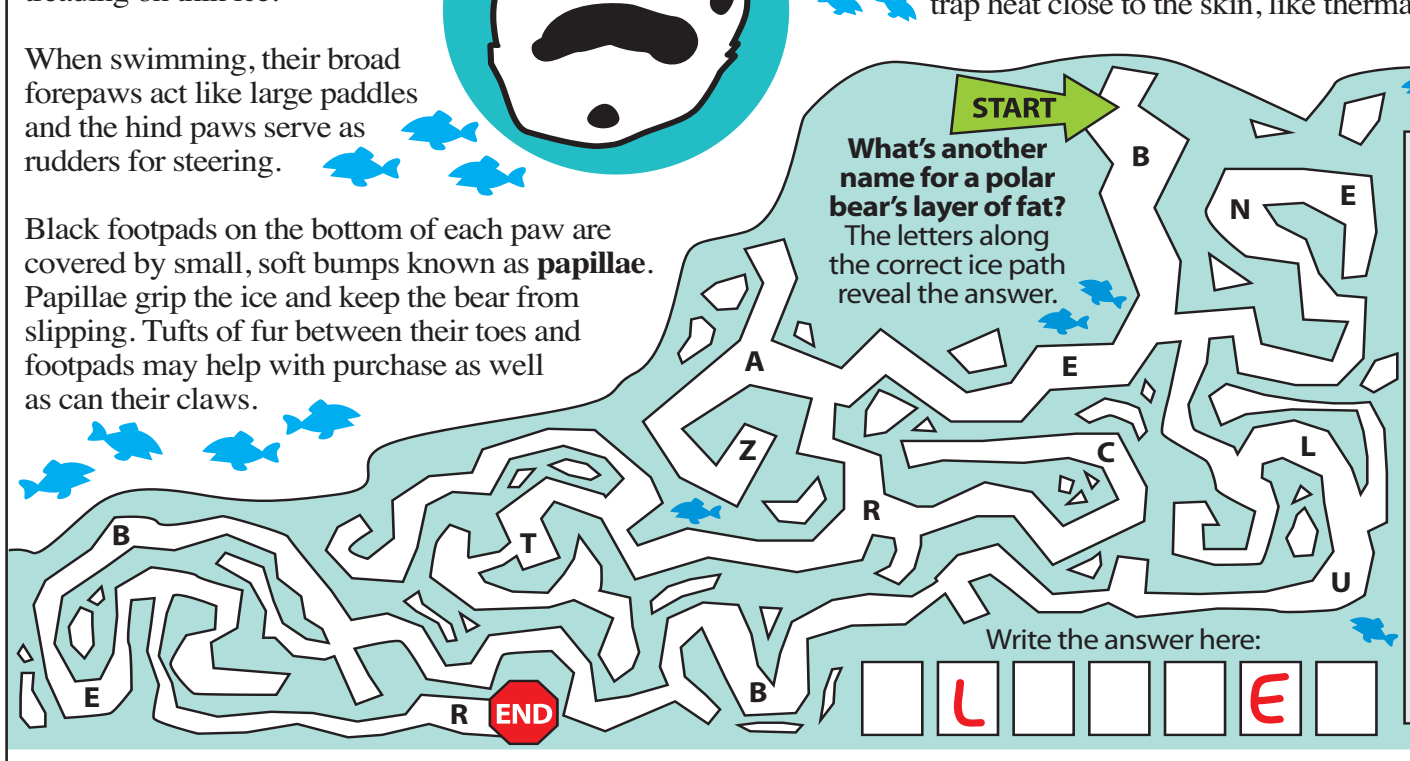
Under the guard hairs is a layer of dense, short, soft hairs that trap heat close to the skin, like thermal underwear.

Polar Bear Paws

Polar bear paws can grow to be 12 inches across (31 centimeters) and help distribute weight when treading on thin ice.

When swimming, their broad forepaws act like large paddles and the hind paws serve as rudders for steering.

Black footpads on the bottom of each paw are covered by small, soft bumps known as **papillae**. Papillae grip the ice and keep the bear from slipping. Tufts of fur between their toes and footpads may help with purchase as well as can their claws.



Extra! Extra!

Verbs and Adjectives

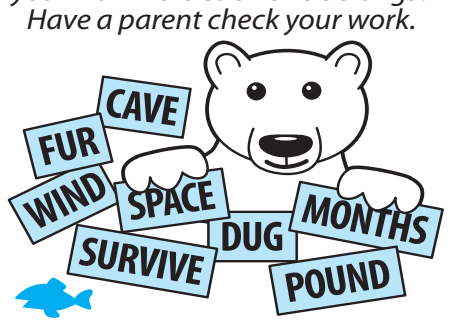
Look through the newspaper and find five **adjectives** that describe a polar bear. Then find five **verbs** that describe how a polar bear moves. Write one or more sentences about a polar bear using your adjectives and verbs.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Together

Life of a Polar Bear Cub

This little cub has taken some of the words out of this article. Can you find where each one belongs? Have a parent check your work.



A polar bear starts its life in a den or ice _____ that its mother _____ into the snow. The den protects the mother and the cubs from _____, cold and predators. The den stays warm inside as heat from the mother bear warms the tight _____ and the frozen walls trap the warm air.

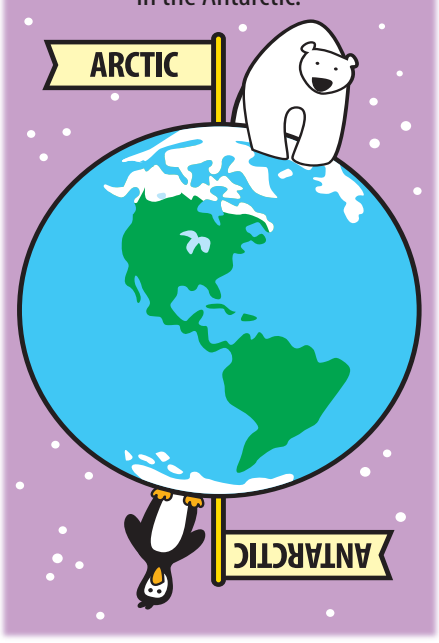
A polar bear cub weighs only about one _____ when it is born and are about 12 to 14 inches long.

These little guys grow up to be BIG. A male polar bear can grow to be 1,200 pounds. A female about 650 pounds.

They start to get _____ at about eight weeks. They stay in the den drinking mama bear's nutritious milk for about three to four _____.

Young polar bears stay with their mothers until they are around 30 months old. By then, they have learned how to _____ in the cold and find food on their own.

Movies and books sometimes show polar bears and penguins together. But they actually live on opposite ends of the earth. Polar bears only live in the Arctic and penguins live in the Antarctic.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Polar Bear True or False

These statements are either all true or all false. Check your answers by adding up the numbers next to each of your answers. If the total is 33, you've got it right!

- Polar bear young are called cubs. ❑ TRUE (10) ❑ FALSE (8)
- Polar bear cubs are born without hair and are blind and deaf. ❑ TRUE (16) ❑ FALSE (7)
- A polar bear's nose can smell a seal on the ice 20 miles away! ❑ TRUE (5) ❑ FALSE (9)
- Polar bear skin is black. ❑ TRUE (2) ❑ FALSE (12)

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

REFLECTS
FOOTPADS
THERMAL
HOLLOW
ARCTIC
POLAR
BEARS
LAYER
WHITE
GUARD
HAIRS
DENSE
TUFTS
OILY
PAWS

C	P	O	E	S	N	E	D	L	S
I	A	R	L	A	M	R	E	H	T
T	B	E	A	P	A	W	S	R	C
C	O	S	S	U	W	H	I	T	E
R	T	I	G	O	B	A	A	U	L
A	A	Y	L	E	W	I	A	F	F
R	M	L	A	Y	E	R	A	T	E
L	O	R	O	W	A	S	Y	S	R
H	S	D	A	P	T	O	O	F	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
THERMAL

The adjective **thermal** means relating to or saving heat.

The **thermal** layer in Jane's jacket helped her stay warm while skiing.

Try to use the word **thermal** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

News Article Mix-Up

Cut out an article from the newspaper. Cut the article into four pieces. Give the pieces to a friend to see if he or she can put the article back together in the right order.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Why do polar bears have white fur coats?

ANSWER: Because they'd look kind of silly in Hawaiian shirts!

Write On!

Bears: Fact and Opinion

Write at least two facts and two opinions about bears.

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